



M E D A L O F  
*Merit*  
 &  
 M E D A L O F  
*Valor*

*Presentation Ceremony*  
 March 18, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.

*Representative*  
**Frank Chopp**  
*Speaker of the House*  
*of Representatives*

*Lieutenant Governor*  
**Brad Owen**  
*President of the Senate*



*Medal of Merit*

*The Medal is awarded to any person who has been distinguished by exceptionally meritorious conduct in performing outstanding services to the people and state of Washington.*

*Medal of Valor*

*The Washington State Medal of Valor is bestowed by the Governor in the name of the state to any person or group of persons who has or have saved, or attempted to save, the life of another at the risk of serious injury or death to himself or herself. Recipients of the Medal of Valor are selected by the State Medal of Valor Committee, which consists of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court.*

**March 18, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Joint Session – House of Representatives**

Presentation of Statewide Elected Officials and  
 Justices of the Supreme Court  
 Presentation of Governor Jay Inslee  
 Presentation of Distinguished Guests  
 Presentation of Flags – Darrington Fire District #24

National Anthem, Holly Harmon  
 Invocation, Reverend Joel Johnson, Assembly of God, Arlington  
 Chaplain, Oso Fire Department

Remarks about the Medal of Merit by Secretary of State Kim Wyman

**Medal of Merit Presented to:**

**Gretchen Schodde**  
 Introduction by Lt. Governor Brad Owen  
**Billy Frank Jr.**, accepted by Willie and Tobin Frank  
 Introduction by Rep. David Sawyer

Remarks about the Medal of Merit by Governor Jay Inslee

**Medal of Valor Presented to:**

**City of Arlington**, accepted by Brantly Stupey  
**Town of Darrington**, accepted by Quinn Nations  
**Community of Oso**, accepted by Willy Harper  
**Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe**, accepted by Kevin Lenon  
 Introduction by Chief Justice Barbara Madsen

*Recipients of Medal of Merit*

**Gretchen Schodde**

Ms. Schodde is a founder of Harmony Hill Retreat Center in Union, a center focused on wellness and renewal for individuals and families affected by a cancer diagnosis. This care is provided at no cost to the participants. She pioneered a supporting response to cancer diagnoses that has become a national model, focusing beyond the cancer diagnosis to support overall health and wellness. Ms. Schodde has been a pioneering health care professional, emergency first responder, educator and volunteer for nearly 50 years. She has been a leader in promoting health and wellness as a community-wide effort, and a leader in Mason County health and safety programs for over two decades as a former public health nurse, a past director of Mason County Drug Abuse Prevention, and as a firefighter and critical incident responder in Mason County.

**Billy Frank Jr.**

Billy Frank Jr., a world-renowned tribal leader, dedicated his life to the salmon, the environment, and peace between diverse cultures. Mr. Frank's activism began at age 14, with his first arrest on the banks of the Nisqually River; he refused to stop fishing. Mr. Frank was an integral player in the fight for treaty fishing rights. The "fish wars" between Pacific Northwest Indian tribes and Washington State escalated to a fever pitch in the 1960s, and the Nisqually Indian endured brutal clashes in the fallout. Mr. Frank became the longtime chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; a witness in the Boldt Decision (U.S. v. Washington), the landmark court case that restored tribal fishing rights in 1974; and, facilitated strong relationships between competing interests that revived the Nisqually Watershed. Even into his 80s, Mr. Frank circled the globe to assist indigenous people in saving their own cultures and the environment. The late U.S. Senator Dan Inouye nominated Mr. Frank for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. Mr. Frank was devoted to the salmon with the hope of carrying out the work of his father, Willie Frank Sr., who is believed to be the last full-blooded Nisqually Indian. Billy Frank Jr., died May 5, 2014 at the age of 83.

*Recipients of Medal of Valor*

On the morning of March 22, 2014, a devastating landslide occurred between Oso and Darrington, killing 43 people and destroying about 40 homes. The Oso landslide is the deadliest in U.S. history. It buried a square-mile area of the Stillaguamish River Valley under a blanket of mud, clay, trees and flood waters.

The Medal of Valor is presented to the many individuals from the communities of Oso, Darrington, Arlington and the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe who risked injury and death, and made great personal sacrifice to assist in rescue, recovery and relief efforts following the tragedy. These heroes dug through the mud to find survivors and victims; lent and used equipment and machinery to aid in the rescue effort; organized town hall meetings, recruited volunteers and coordinated fundraising; and, helped hold their communities together with meals, comfort, prayers and housing.